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U.S. doubts new Russian war chief can end Moscow's floundering

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Russia has tapped a new Ukraine war commander to take centralized control of the next phase of battle after its costly failures in the opening campaign and carnage for Ukrainian civilians. U.S. officials don't see one man making a difference in Moscow's prospects.

Russia turned to Gen. Alexander Dvornikov, 60, one of Russia's most experienced military officers and — according to U.S. officials — a general with a record of brutality against civilians in Syria and other war theaters. Up to now, Russia had no central war commander on the ground.

The general's appointment was confirmed by a senior U.S. official who was not authorized to be identified and spoke on condition of anonymity.

But the White House national security adviser, Jake Sullivan, said "no appointment of any general can erase the fact that Russia has already faced a strategic failure in Ukraine."

Continued on next page



In this photo taken on March 17, 2016, Russian President Vladimir Putin, left, poses with Col. Gen. Alexander Dvornikov during an awarding ceremony in Moscow's Kremlin, Russia.

Associated Press

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 7 DAYS A WEEK						PROFESSIONAL COMPLIMENTARY PICTURES ON TUESDAY AND FRIDAY
SUNDAY: TICO KOCK STEEL DRUM 4 - 6pm	MONDAY: ANGELA FLORES VIOLINIST 6:30 - 8:30pm	TUESDAY: JEAN PAUL SAXOPHONIST 6:30 - 8:30pm	WEDNESDAY: CARLOS ORLATE SINGER 6:30 - 8:30pm	THURSDAY: MARRYBELL MADURO SINGER 6:30 - 8:30pm	FRIDAY: RICKY THOMAS GUITAR 7 - 9pm	SATURDAY: ANGELA FLORES VIOLINIST 6:30 - 8:30pm
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Continued from Front

"This general will just be another author of crimes and brutality against Ukrainian civilians," Sullivan said. "And the United States, as I said before, is determined to do all that we can to support Ukrainians as they resist him and they resist the forces that he commands."

White House press secretary Jen Psaki echoed that thought. "The reports we're seeing of a change in military leadership and putting a general in charge who was responsible for the brutality and the atrocities we saw in Syria shows that there's going to be a continuation of what we've already seen on the ground in Ukraine and that's what we are expecting," she said.

The decision to establish new battlefield leadership comes as Russia gears



People shelter underground following explosions in Lviv, western Ukraine, Saturday, March 26, 2022.

Associated Press

up for what is expected to be a large and more focused push to expand Russian control in Ukraine's east and south, including the Donbas, and follows a failed opening bid in the north to conquer Kyiv, the capital.

Dvornikov gained promi-

nence while leading the Russian group of forces in Syria, where Moscow has waged a military campaign to shore up President Bashar Assad's regime during a devastating civil war. Dvornikov is a career military officer and has steadily risen through the ranks after

starting as a platoon commander in 1982. He fought during the second war in Chechnya and took several top positions before being placed in charge of the Russian troops in Syria in 2015.

Under Dvornikov's command, Russian forces in Syria were known for crushing dissent in part by destroying cities, lobbing artillery and dropping what were often crudely made barrel bombs in sustained attacks that have displaced millions of Syrian civilians. The United Nations says the more than decade-long war has killed more than 350,000 people.

In 2016, Russian President Vladimir Putin awarded Dvornikov the Hero of Russia medal, one of the country's highest awards. Dvornikov has served as the commander of the Southern Military District since 2016.

Lt. Col. Fares al-Bayoush, a Syrian army defector, said Sunday that while the situation in Syria is different than in Ukraine because the Russian military was fighting insurgent groups and not Ukraine's professional army, he expects a similar "scorched-earth" strategy. Al-Bayoush said he believes the aim of naming Dvornikov as Ukraine war commander is to turn the war into "rapid battles" in several places at the same time.

"I expected him to use the scorched earth policy that was used in Syria," al-Bayoush said, referring to Russian-backed attacks in Syria in which cities and towns were put under long sieges while being subjected to intense bombardment that left many people dead and caused wide destruction to infrastructure and residential areas. "He has very good experience in this policy."

"This commander is a war criminal," al-Bayoush said by telephone from Turkey. Since Russia joined the war in Syria in September 2015, Assad's forces have taken control of most of the country after being on the verge of collapse. The Russian air force carried out thousands of airstrikes since, helping Russian-backed Syrian troops take areas af-

ter fighters were forced to choose between an amnesty in return for dropping their arms or being taken by buses into rebel-held areas. The last major Russian-backed offensive in Syria lasted several months, until March 2020, when a truce was reached between Russia and Turkey, which supported rival sides.

Sullivan on Sunday said the Russian general has a record of brutality against civilians in Syria and "we can expect more of the same" in Ukraine. But he stressed that the U.S. strategy remains the same in supporting Ukraine and its president, Volodymyr Zelenskyy. "Our policy is unequivocal — that we will do whatever we can to help Ukraine succeed," Sullivan said. "Which means that we need to keep giving them weapons so that they can make progress on the battlefield. And we need to keep giving them military support and strong economic sanctions to improve their position, their posture at the negotiating table."

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, meanwhile, spoke by video conference Sunday to a small number of Ukrainian troops in the U.S. who are now returning to their country. The group has been in the U.S. since last fall for military schooling and were given training on new drones the U.S. sent to Ukraine last week for the war with Russia.

Austin thanked the Ukrainian troop members for their courage and service and pledged continued U.S. support and security aid, according to Pentagon spokesman John Kirby. Kirby said the small group was given some advanced tactical training, including on the Switchblade armed kamakazi drones, as well as instruction on patrol craft operations, communications and maintenance.

In an interview Saturday with The Associated Press, Zelenskyy acknowledged that despite his hopes for peace, he must be "realistic" about the prospects for a swift resolution given that negotiations have so far been limited to low-level talks that do not include Putin. □

Live Entertainment at 8pm

MON Latin Dance Show	TUE Arts & Crafts Expression
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SUN Violin Show	Nightly Watershows 7:30pm - 8:30pm - 9:30pm

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Biden expected to release rule on ghost guns in days

By MICHAEL BALSAMO

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Biden administration will come out with its long-awaited ghost gun rule — aimed at reining in privately made firearms without serial numbers that are increasingly cropping up at crime scenes — as soon as Monday, three people familiar with the matter told The Associated Press.

Completion of the rule comes as the White House and the Justice Department have been under growing pressure to crack down on gun deaths and violent crime in the U.S.

The White House has also been weighing naming Steve Dettelbach, a former U.S. attorney from Ohio, to run the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, or ATF, the people said. Biden had to withdraw the nomination of his first nominee, gun-control advocate David Chipman, after the nomination stalled for months because of opposition from Republicans and some Democrats in the Senate.

For nearly a year, the rule has been making its way through the federal regulation process. Gun safety groups and Democrats in Congress have been pushing for the Justice Department to finish the rule for months. It will probably be met with heavy resistance from gun groups and draw litigation in the coming



This Nov. 27, 2019, file photo shows "ghost guns" on display at the headquarters of the San Francisco Police Department in San Francisco.

Associated Press

weeks.

The exact timing of the announcement hasn't been set, the people said. They could not discuss the matter publicly and spoke to AP on condition of anonymity. The White House declined to comment.

On Sunday, the Senate's top Democrat, Sen. Chuck Schumer, of New York, implored the administration to move faster.

"It's high time for a ghost gun exorcism before the proliferation peaks, and before more people get hurt — or worse," Schumer said in a statement. "My message is a simple one: No more waiting on these proposed federal rules."

Ghost guns are "too easy to build, too hard to trace and too dangerous to ignore."

Justice Department statistics show that nearly 24,000 ghost guns were recovered by law enforcement at crime scenes and reported to the government from 2016 to 2020. It is hard to say how many are circulating on the streets, in part because in many cases police departments don't contact the government about the guns because they can't be traced.

The rule is expected to change the current definition of a firearm under federal law to include unfinished parts, like the frame

of a handgun or the receiver of a long gun.

In its proposed rule released last May, the ATF said it was also seeking to require manufacturers and dealers who sell ghost gun parts to be licensed by the federal government and require federally licensed firearms dealers to add a serial number to any unserialized guns they plan to sell.

The rule would also require firearms dealers to run background checks before they sell ghost gun kits that contain parts needed to assemble a firearm.

For years, federal officials have been sounding the alarm about an increasing

black market for homemade, military-style semi-automatic rifles and handguns. As well as turning up more frequently at crime scenes, ghost guns have been increasingly encountered when federal agents buy guns in undercover operations from gang members and other criminals.

Some states, like California, have enacted laws in recent years to require serial numbers to be stamped on ghost guns.

The critical component in building an untraceable gun is what is known as the lower receiver, a part typically made of metal or polymer. An unfinished receiver — sometimes referred to as an "80-percent receiver" — can be legally bought online with no serial numbers or other markings on it, no license required.

Police across the country have been reporting spikes in ghost guns being recovered by officers. The New York Police Department, for example, said officers found 131 unserialized firearms since January.

A gunman who killed his wife and four others in Northern California in 2017 had been prohibited from owning firearms, but he built his own to skirt the court order before his rampage. And in 2019, a teenager used a homemade handgun to fatally shoot two classmates and wound three others at a school in suburban Los Angeles. □

2 killed and 10 wounded in Cedar Rapids nightclub shooting

CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa (AP)

— A shooting inside a crowded Cedar Rapids nightclub left a man and a woman dead and 10 people wounded early Sunday, authorities said.

Cedar Rapids Police Chief Wayne Jerman said investigators believe two men fired more than a dozen shots inside the Taboo Nightclub and Lounge just before 1:30 a.m. Sunday. He said officers who were just outside the club because of an earlier incident rushed inside just as 100-150 people streamed out of the

bar and found the victims. Officers helped treat the people who were wounded and rushed several of the victims to hospitals in squad cars.

The names of the man and woman who died were not released Sunday. Jerman said one of the people who were injured was in critical condition Sunday afternoon while the other injuries, which were all related to the gunfire, ranged from serious to minor.

The gunmen likely escaped as the crowd rushed out of the nightclub.

Police were searching for suspects Sunday afternoon and no arrests had been reported.

Jerman said police haven't determined the motive for the shooting but investigators believe one of the victims was targeted.

"This is another mindless and senseless gun-related incident involving a reckless disregard for human life," Jerman said. "I remain livid and angered at the continued and blatant disregard and lack of respect for human life that continues. □



Crime scene tape blocks off the Taboo Nightclub and Lounge in Cedar Rapids, Iowa on Sunday, April 10, 2022.

Associated Press

Maryland lawmakers override gov's veto of abortion expansion

By **BRIAN WITTE**

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (AP) — Republican Gov. Larry Hogan's veto of a measure to expand access to abortion in Maryland was overridden on Saturday by the General Assembly, which is controlled by Democrats. The state will end a restriction that only physicians can provide abortions. The new law will enable nurse practitioners, nurse midwives and physician assistants to provide them with training. It creates an abortion care training program and requires \$3.5 million in state funding annually. It also requires most insurance plans to cover abortions without cost.

Del. Emily Shetty said she was supporting the measure on the House floor as a mother who had experienced a high-risk pregnancy. She also described being a sexual assault survivor in college and the difficulties she experienced "with the weight of what had happened after that incident."

"And thankfully, the incident did not result in pregnancy but had it, it would have drastically changed my life if I had not been able to access the care



Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan talks to reporters after signing a measure to enact a new congressional map on Monday, April, 4, 2022, for the state's eight U.S. House seats.

Associated Press

that I needed at that time," Shetty, a Democrat, said. Hogan wrote in his veto letter that the legislation "endangers the health and lives of women by allowing non-physicians to perform abortions."

The measure comes at a time when the conservative majority on the U.S. Supreme Court is weighing whether to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, the landmark 1973

ruling that banned states from outlawing abortion. If they do, at least 26 states are likely to either ban abortion outright or severely limit access, according to the Guttmacher Institute, a research and policy organization that supports abortion rights.

"In this context, it's very important that we keep in mind that the strategies that this bill is using is ensur-

ing that people can access the care that they need, when they need it, no matter what happens with the rest of the country — no matter what happens with the Supreme Court," said Del. Ariana Kelly, a Democrat who was the lead sponsor of the bill, said. Republican lawmakers criticized the provision allocating \$3.5 million of taxpayer money annually to pay for

the training. Del. Haven Shoemaker, the House minority whip, described the bill as "the most radical expansion of abortion in Maryland's history in a state that already has some of the most liberal abortion laws in the country."

"Madam speaker, this bill is too extreme, even for Maryland," Shoemaker, a Republican, said, referring to House Speaker Adrienne Jones, a Democrat.

Kelly said the measure is modernizing the choice the state's voters made in 1992, when they approved the right to abortion in a statewide vote with 62% of voters supporting it.

"It is making sure that people have access to care, particularly people of color, particularly low-income people, particularly rural people," Kelly said. "We know that physician-only restrictions exacerbate health inequalities, and we are trying to reduce health inequalities in the state of Maryland with this bill."

The measure takes effect July 1. The insurance provisions apply to all policies, contracts, and health benefit plans issued, delivered, or renewed in the state on or after Jan. 1. □

Feds accused of ignoring asbestos, mold at women's prison



A sign for the Federal Correctional Institution Dublin is displayed on Jan. 9, 2019, in Dublin, Calif.

Associated Press

By **MICHAEL BALSAMO and MICHAEL R. SISK**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A government watchdog has found a "substantial likelihood" the federal Bureau of Prisons committed wrongdoing when it

ignored complaints and failed to address asbestos and mold contamination at a federal women's prison in California that has already been under scrutiny for rampant sexual abuse of inmates.

The U.S. Office of Special

Counsel now wants Attorney General Merrick Garland to step in to investigate the allegations after multiple whistleblower complaints were filed earlier this year. The office detailed its findings in a letter this past week and has asked Garland to submit a report within 60 days.

The whistleblower complaints, filed by union officials at the Federal Correctional Institution in Dublin, California, alleged that senior Bureau of Prisons officials had failed to act to resolve the allegations of workplace contamination. The union had repeatedly complained that correctional officers and other prison workers and inmates were being exposed to potentially hazardous mold and asbestos but says those concerns were ignored.

"Management's failure to address unsafe and dangerous working conditions at FCI Dublin has put the health and safety of both employees and inmates at considerable risk," Dublin union president Edward Canales said. "We look forward to the outcome of this investigation, which we hope will result in the unsafe conditions being remedied and appropriate disciplinary actions being taken against the managers who failed to act."

The Justice Department has already been investigating serious misconduct at Dublin, where five employees — including the former warden — have been charged with sexually abusing inmates. An Associated Press investigation this year revealed a pattern of sexual miscon-

duct and detailed a toxic culture that enabled it to continue for years.

After the AP's investigation was published, whistleblowers at the prison said they were being attacked for speaking up. The Bureau of Prisons launched a task force of 18 senior executives who visited the prison in March to assess the conditions there and work to reform the facility. The agency's director, Michael Carvajal, also visited the prison. The Justice Department said Saturday it had received the letter and "appreciates OSC's responsiveness to these concerns." It said the Bureau of Prisons was "addressing concerns raised by staff at Dublin and working to ensure that all facilities are operating under safe, healthy conditions." □

European leaders stream into Ukraine to show solidarity

LONDON (AP) — U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Austrian Chancellor Karl Nehammer on Saturday joined the stream of European leaders showing their support for Ukraine by traveling to the nation's capital for face-to-face meetings with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

Johnson's surprise visit included a pledge of new military assistance, including 120 armored vehicles and new anti-ship missile systems. This came a day after he promised to send an additional 100 million pounds (\$130 million) of high-grade military equipment to Ukraine, saying Britain wanted to help Ukraine defend itself against Russian aggression.

Johnson also confirmed further economic support, guaranteeing an additional \$500 million in World Bank lending to Ukraine, taking Britain's total loan guarantee to up to \$1 billion.

"Today I met my friend President @ZelenskyyUa in Kyiv as a show of our unwavering support for the people of Ukraine," Johnson said on Twitter. "We're setting out a new package of financial & military aid which is a testament of our commitment to his country's



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, right, and Austria's Chancellor Karl Nehammer leave after a news conference during their meeting in Kyiv, Ukraine, Saturday, April 9, 2022.

Associated Press

struggle against Russia's barbaric campaign."

The head of Ukraine's presidential office, Andriy Yermak, said "the conversation was rich and constructive," but offered no details.

An image of the two leaders meeting was posted online by the Ukrainian Embassy in London with the headline: "Surprise," and a winking smiley face.

The package of military aid Britain announced Friday includes more Starstreak

anti-aircraft missiles, another 800 anti-tank missiles and precision munitions capable of lingering in the sky until directed to their target.

"Ukraine has defied the odds and pushed back Russian forces from the gates of Kyiv, achieving the greatest feat of arms of the 21st century," Johnson said in a statement. "It is because of President Zelenskyy's resolute leadership and the invincible heroism

and courage of the Ukrainian people that Putin's monstrous aims are being thwarted."

As Zelenskyy makes a continuous round of virtual appearances to drum up support from lawmakers around the world, an increasing number of European leaders have decided the time is right to travel to Ukraine's capital, Kyiv, for in-person talks. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen was

in Kyiv on Friday, following earlier visits from the Czech, Polish and Slovenian prime ministers.

Nehammer met with Zelenskyy earlier Saturday and pledged that the EU would continue to ratchet up sanctions against Russia "until the war stops."

"As long as people are dying, every sanction is still insufficient," he said, adding that Austrian embassy staff will return to Kyiv from western Ukraine.

Von der Leyen, who heads the European Union's executive branch, travelled to Warsaw on Saturday to lead a fundraising event for Ukraine. She was joined by Polish President Andrzej Duda, with Zelenskyy and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau appearing by video link.

At the end of the 90-minute meeting, von der Leyen said 10.1 billion euros (\$11 billion) had been raised for Ukrainian refugees.

The event was held in Warsaw because more than 2.5 million of the 4.4 million people who have fled Ukraine since Russia's invasion began Feb. 24 have entered Poland. Many have stayed, though some have moved on to other countries. □

China makes semi-secret delivery of missiles to Serbia

By **DUSAN STOJANOVIC**

BELGRADE, Serbia (AP) —

Russian ally Serbia took the delivery of a sophisticated Chinese anti-aircraft system in a veiled operation this weekend, amid Western concerns that an arms buildup in the Balkans at the time of the war in Ukraine could threaten the fragile peace in the region. Media and military experts said Sunday that six Chinese Air Force Y-20 transport planes landed at Belgrade's civilian airport early Saturday, reportedly carrying HQ-22 surface-to-air missile systems for the Serbian military.

The Chinese cargo planes with military markings were pictured at Belgrade's Nikola Tesla airport. Serbia's defense ministry did not im-

mediately respond to AP's request for comment.

The arms delivery over the territory of at least two NATO member states, Turkey and Bulgaria, was seen by experts as a demonstration of China's growing global reach.

"The Y-20s' appearance raised eyebrows because they flew en masse as opposed to a series of single-aircraft flights," wrote The Warzone online magazine. "The Y-20's presence in Europe in any numbers is also still a fairly new development."

Serbian military analyst Aleksandar Radic said that "the Chinese carried out their demonstration of force."

Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic all but confirmed

the delivery of the medium-range system that was agreed in 2019, saying on Saturday that he will present "the newest pride" of the Serbian military on Tuesday or Wednesday.

He had earlier complained that NATO countries, which represent most of Serbia's neighbors, are refusing to allow the system's delivery flights over their territories amid tensions over Russia's aggression on Ukraine.

Although Serbia has voted in favor of U.N. resolutions that condemn the bloody Russian attacks in Ukraine, it has refused to join international sanctions against its allies in Moscow or outright criticize the apparent atrocities committed by the Russian troops there.

Back in 2020, U.S. officials



A Y-20 transport aircraft of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Air Force performs during the 12th China International Aviation and Aerospace Exhibition, also known as Airshow China 2018, in Zhuhai city, southern China on Nov. 7, 2018.

Associated Press

warned Belgrade against the purchase of HQ-22 anti-aircraft systems, whose export version is known as FK-3. They said that if Ser-

bia really wants to join the European Union and other Western alliances, it must align its military equipment with Western standards. □

Pakistan's PM vows to fight on after Parliament ousts him

By **KATHY GANNON**
Associated Press

ISLAMABAD (AP) — The ouster of Prime Minister Imran Khan in a parliamentary no-confidence vote early Sunday set Pakistan on an uncertain political path, with his supporters taking to the streets in protest and the political opposition preparing to install his replacement.

Tens of thousands of Khan supporters marched in cities across Pakistan, waving large party flags and vowing support. The youth, who make up the backbone of Khan's supporters, dominated the crowds.

In the southern Arabian Sea port city of Karachi more than 20,000 shouted slogans promising Khan's return to power. In the capital of Islamabad, the lights from thousands of supporters lit up the night sky as Khan made his way through the crowd atop a brightly colored truck.

Khan was brought down after a day of drama and often vitriolic remarks. His supporters accused Washington of orchestrating his ouster and his party walked out of Parliament shortly before the vote. In the end, 174 lawmakers in the 342-seat Parliament voted to depose him, two more than the required simple majority.



Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan attends a military parade to mark Pakistan National Day, in Islamabad, Pakistan on March 23, 2022.

Associated Press

Khan's successor is to be elected and sworn in by Parliament on Monday. The leading contender is Shahbaz Sharif, a brother of disgraced former prime minister Nawaz Sharif.

Shahbaz Sharif heads the largest party in a diverse alliance of opposition factions that span the spectrum from the left to radically religious. Khan's nominee for prime minister will be his foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi.

In an interview on a local television channel Qureshi said the party was still de-

bating whether its lawmakers will resign from Parliament after the prime minister's vote is taken.

Khan's ouster comes amid his cooling relations with the powerful military and an economy struggling with high inflation and a plummeting Pakistani rupee. The opposition has charged Khan's government with economic mismanagement.

Khan has claimed the U.S. worked behind the scenes to bring him down, purportedly because of Washington's displeasure over his

independent foreign policy choices, which often favor China and Russia. He has occasionally defied America and stridently criticized America's post 9/11 war on terror. Khan said America was deeply disturbed by his visit to Russia and his meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin on Feb. 24, the start of the devastating war in Ukraine.

The U.S. State Department has denied his allegations. Elizabeth Threlkeld, a Pakistan expert at the U.S.-based The Stimson Center, said that even as prime

minister, Khan often played the role of opposition leader.

"His removal would see him to a role he knows well, armed with a narrative of victimhood from unfounded claims of international interference," she said. "His base will remain loyal, though I expect both his controversial attempt to remain in power and reduced military backing will lose him less committed supporters."

Khan would seem to have few options going forward. General elections are not scheduled before August 2023. Even if the new prime minister favors early elections, this would likely not happen before October. The Pakistan Election Commission, which oversees polls, told the Supreme Court last week it had still to finish re-aligning constituencies in line with the results of a 2017 census before polls could be held.

In the aftermath of Sunday's vote, giant steel containers stacked on top of each other blocked main roads leading to Parliament and to the diplomatic enclave in the capital of Islamabad. Khan has called on his supporters to gather late Sunday, after the end of the daily dawn-to-dusk fast during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. □

2 European divers rescued in Indonesia, Dutch teenager dead



This photo released by the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) on Friday, April 8, 2022, shows search and rescue operation for foreign divers off the coast of Johor's Mersing, Malaysia.

Associated Press

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — Two European divers

were rescued by fishermen on Saturday but a

third, a 14-year-old Dutch, had died, four days after they disappeared off a southern Malaysian island and drifted some 70 nautical miles (100 kilometers), authorities said.

Alexia Alexandra Molina, 18, of France and Adrian Peter Chesters, 46, of Britain were found early Saturday in neighboring Indonesian waters and taken to a hospital, the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency said. Chesters' Dutch son, Nathen Renze Chesters, remained missing but Chesters told police that he had died because he was too weak, the agency said in a statement.

The agency said it notified

Indonesian authorities to continue searching for the body. The search operation in Malaysia has been called off.

Molina and Chesters were found 16 nautical miles (30 kilometers) north of Indonesia's Bintan Island, which is about 70 nautical miles (100 kilometers) from the location they were reported missing on Wednesday, according to Mersing police chief Cyril Edward Nuing. The three were diving with their Norwegian instructor, Kristine Grodem, about 15 meters (50 feet) deep at an island off Mersing town in Malaysia's southern Johor state. Grodem, 35, was rescued Thursday by a

tugboat. She said the four of them surfaced safely Wednesday afternoon but later drifted away from the boat and were separated by a strong current.

Grodem was training for the other three, who were seeking to obtain advanced diving licenses, maritime officials said. The boat skipper was detained for further investigation, and diving activities off Mersing were suspended. There are several islands off the town that are popular dive spots.

Malaysia's borders reopened to foreigners on April 1 after being closed for more than two years during the COVID-19 pandemic. □



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Pension hike not enough for Venezuelans to afford basic food

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— When lunchtime comes, Maybel Sequera and Juan González share a plate of noodles and beans at their home in a low-income neighborhood west of Venezuela's capital. Their meager lunch was a gift from a nonprofit organization as the couple cannot afford to feed themselves.

Sequera, 72, and González, 74, worked for years as a seamstress and driver to build their two houses and raise their four children. But now, after 50 years of marriage, they rely on donations for food, medicines and clothing.

The government raised their combined monthly pensions from about \$4 to roughly \$60 last month. But it would have to be multiplied by six for them to be able to buy a basket of goods.

"Now that they have increased us to 130 (each), we are going to see how we manage with those 130 because it is not enough either," Sequera said referring to the pension in bolívars, Venezuela's official currency and in which pensions are paid.

In Venezuela, the pension is the amount paid monthly to workers who retire after reaching 750 weeks of Social Security contributions and turning 55, in the case of women, and 60 for men. Since 1995 — years before Hugo Chavez imposed in the South American coun-



Carlos Blanco, 84, a retired ambulance supervisor, holds a sign that announces his monthly pension payment of \$1.50 dollars during a protest asking for an increase in payments amid world record-breaking inflation in Caracas, Venezuela, Tuesday, Feb. 15, 2022.

Associated Press

try what he considered socialism — a pension is equal to the monthly minimum wage. Workers contribute between 2% and 4% of their salary to Social Security while employers pay an additional 9% to 11% on behalf of workers.

The pensions of Sequera, González and millions of other similarly situated retirees went up last month because President Nicolás Maduro increased the monthly minimum wage from roughly \$2 to about \$30, an amount insufficient to pay basic goods, whose cost in February was estimated at \$365, according to the Venezuelan Finance

Observatory, an organization specializing in economic studies.

Venezuela has just over five million pensioners, according to official figures. Annual inflation, which slowed last year but still reached 686.4%, has eaten up their pensions for years.

Although the country in the second half of the last decade experienced a severe shortage of food and hygiene items, prompting people to stand in long lines outside supermarkets to buy whatever they could, store shelves are now well stocked and display imported products. But high prices set in dol-

lars make it impossible for much of the population to afford goods.

This dynamic leaves many older adults dependent on remittances from the more than six million Venezuelans who have migrated due to the economic, political and social crises of recent years.

Nonprofit organizations and churches fill some gaps, but it is not uncommon to see the elderly on the sidewalks of Caracas, the capital, selling candy or begging for money.

"I have to manage to get food. It's not easy, because you're of an age, you go out on the street and many

people look at you with contempt," Miriam Jiménez, 68, told The Associated Press after picking up a plate of food at a soup kitchen for the elderly in western Caracas. "One has to beg in the streets. Sometimes, a neighbor gives me something."

In other South American countries, pensions range from \$230 to \$650, but the amounts are also usually below the cost of a basket of basic goods or the monthly minimum wage. In Chile, new President Gabriel Boric promised to raise the amount to \$310, although it will remain below the \$435 monthly minimum wage.

Luis Francisco Cabeza, director of Convite, a non-governmental organization focused on care for the elderly in Venezuela, said social security for the elderly population should not just be a pension. He said it should also include access to medicines, medical care and recreation.

"The pension is a system that seeks to protect you against the contingency of reaching old age," he added. In Venezuela, the hospital system is precarious, so patients must bring all medical supplies to be treated.

Sequera has been diagnosed with two types of cancer this year, including a type of skin cancer that required an operation on her face. □

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Test today, fly tomorrow during the holidays

PALM BEACH — MedCare's Fit2Fly COVID-19 Testing Centers has improved its services when it comes to turn around time for results. As of November its offering same day test results (previously it was 24 hours) on both PCR and Antigen tests.

This in part is to comply with the updated December 6, CDC requirement for travel to the United States, where all air passengers, regardless of vaccination status, must show a negative COVID-19 test taken no more than 1 day before travel to the United States.

MedCare Fit2Fly Testing Center at the Cove Mall is opposite the Holiday Inn and is open every day for walk-ins from 8 AM through 6 PM. MedCare's other location is situated at The Courtyard by Marriott Aruba Resort, is across the street from the RIU Hotel and is open every day from 8:00 AM until 2 PM. These two locations are at a stone's throw from your resort, condominium, or other vacation accommodation. Walk-ins are welcome.

MedCare Clinic, a high-quality medical clinic that specializes in urgent care for tourists and that has been appointed as the national COVID-19 clinic for tourists, and Laboratorio di Servizio, a full-service modern medical laboratory with state-of-the-art equipment, have partnered up to provide fast and reliable COVID-19 testing to all. Laboratorio di Servizio is ISO-15189:2012 accredited by the Dutch Council for Accreditation (M317).



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- Divi Aruba Phoenix Beach Resort
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Please contact your front desk for more information on our Testing Centers at these properties.

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Harbour House Aruba officially open! 80 % sold, construction in final phase: Harbour House Aruba is ready for you!

ORANJESTAD — 2021 was the official Grand Opening of Harbour House Aruba. The residence consisting of 94 units is located in the former Mar Azul building, right in the heart of Oranjestad. The two brothers Irwin J. Perret-Gentil and Alberto Perret-Gentil from PERING, one of the largest, privately-owned Real Estate and construction firms in Venezuela and Aruba, officially opened their new jewel in the presence of the invitees.

Harbour House Aruba is the ultimate smart investment or personal living space. A state-of-the-art lobby, an ocean-view gym, bar service, rooftop with 360 degrees view of Oranjestad, on-site parking, 24-hours security and a top floor lounge area with Jacuzzi's. Cherry on the cake: an infinity pool with a panorama on the harbour.

Harbour House Aruba offers cosmopolitan living in a beach-chic environment. The residence is fast-selling their studios, two-bedroom and three-bedroom units for many reasons but in a nutshell we can name: great location, great value for your money and great quality. To see exactly what still is available you may check the website which shows you a map with sold and open units. Updates on construction are also on forehand. When you live abroad stopping by to check upon your purchase is not that simple, yet with the monthly updates on their website, it is a lot easier.

Hottest condo in town

Aruba Today talked to one of the owners from New York: "This is going to be the hottest condo building on the island because this is the very first thing people see when they arrive here by cruise ship and it is the only one combining the ocean, port and city. We feel so happy to be the owner here, also, the organization is amazing. We are being accommodated in every way, the attention you get is extraordinary."

Boardwalk

Living here includes being part of Oranjestad and all its benefits. Around the Harbour House building a boardwalk is constructed allowing you to stroll along the waterfront and enjoy a drink on a terrace or dive into the



art gallery, souvenir store or even have dinner facing the atmospheric harbour of Oranjestad.

The process of purchase is easy, whether you are abroad or on the island. Make an appointment through the website to visit the sales office when you are here. In that way you can actually see the unit, materials and amenities. If you are not on the island the website can help you out and the sales office is happy to send you all needed documentation for you to orientate. When agreed upon the unit you sign an agreement and move forward with the down pay-



ment which is \$ 50.000. At receipt of that amount

the sales is closed and the price will not change. You know what you get and will not be surprised by price changes. The payment agreements after the deposit will be discussed and are flexible. Harbour House Aruba assist also in financing by banks.

For more information: <https://harbourhousearuba.com>

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138 new Covid cases registered in the recent week

According to the weekly update published by the Public Health Department, also known as DVG, about the development of the Covid pandemic here on Aruba, in the recent week up until Friday about 138 new cases of Covid were registered.

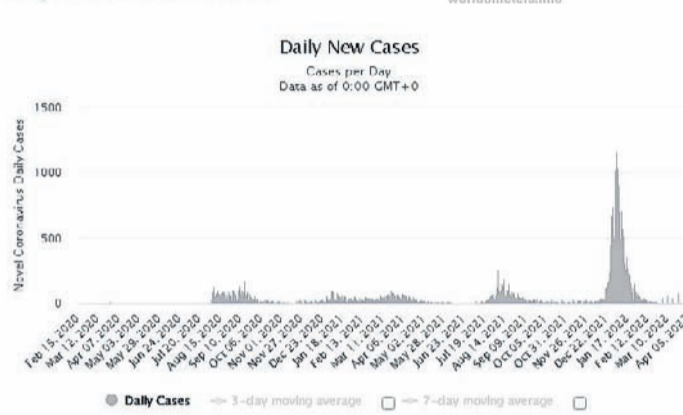
DVG informed as well that

141 people recovered from the virus.

The amount of active cases of Covid-19 as of Friday was 84. The amount of deaths related to or because of Covid-19 is currently at 212.

Data from DVG illustrates that new Covid cases have a weekly average of 20

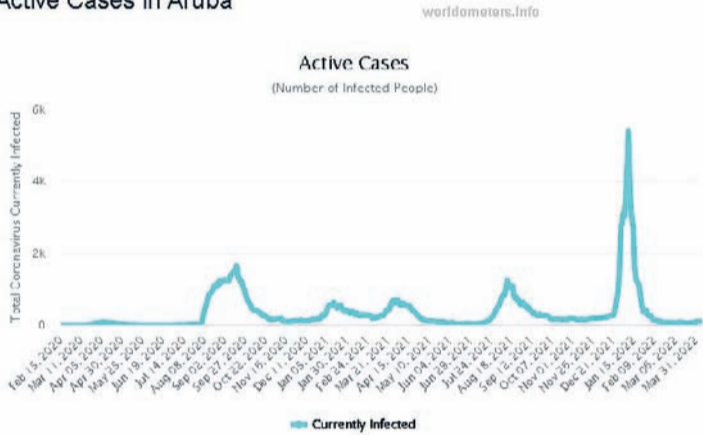
Daily New Cases in Aruba



new cases per day, along with a positivity rate average of 33% per day.

In Aruba, there are 2 people hospitalized, either with or because of Covid. Of the people hospitalized, none are in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) meaning that both are in general floor. However in Colombia there are 2 patients from Aruba hospitalized in ICU, and one more patient in general floor together making a total of 3 patients hospitalized in Colombia because of or with Covid.

Active Cases in Aruba



Presentation Safe House

ORANJESTAD - The Minister of Justice and Social Affairs, Mr. Rocco Tjon, recently met with the board of the Safe House Aruba, in which the board gave a presentation about the progress and goals for 2022.



The safety house is, among other things, responsible for processing the policy regarding complex matters and persons with multiple social problems. It provides treatment for aggressors and victims of relational violence, undocumented individuals, and seniors. It also facilitates and develops the collaboration between the chains of social care and judicial chain. The Safe House focuses on specific groups, including risk juveniles, repeat offenders, confused individuals, individuals with addictions, psychiatric patients, and

double diagnostic cases. It also works with aggressors and victims of relational violence, undocumented individuals, and seniors.

The Safe House works with key partners in the judicial chain and social care like; Bureau Leerplicht, Bureau Sostenemi, KIA, Department for Social Affairs, Guardianship Council Department, Fundacion Guia Mi, Wit Gele Kruis, Fundacion pa Maneho di Adiccion, Respaldo, Bureau Slachtofferhulp, Aruba Police Department,

Prosecutors Office, Stichting Reclassering en Jeugdbescherming Aruba, Sociaal Psychiatrische Dienst and the FCCA.

Subjects discussed during the meeting were the increasing use of drugs among the youth and the long waiting list for mental healthcare. The Safe House's goals for 2022 include personnel self-care, professional development, early detection, and case studies within the chain.

The Ministry of Justice and Social Affairs encourages structural participation in these meetings, considering its added value throughout the chain, to better coordinate the cases and take the necessary steps to offer help on time.



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America's homeless ranks graying as more retire on streets

By ANITA SNOW

Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — Karla Finocchio's slide into homelessness began when she split with her partner of 18 years and temporarily moved in with a cousin.

The 55-year-old planned to use her \$800-a-month disability check to get an apartment after back surgery. But she soon was sleeping in her old pickup protected by her German Shepherd mix Scrappy, unable to afford housing in Phoenix, where median monthly rents soared 33% during the coronavirus pandemic to over \$1,220 for a one-bedroom, according to ApartmentList.com.

Finocchio is one face of America's graying homeless population, a rapidly expanding group of destitute and desperate people 50 and older suddenly without a permanent home after a job loss, divorce, family death or health crisis during a pandemic.

"We're seeing a huge boom in senior homelessness," said Kendra Hendry, a caseworker at Arizona's largest shelter, where older people make up about 30% of those staying there. "These are not necessarily people who have mental illness or substance abuse problems. They are peo-



Karla Finocchio, 55, tears up as she talks about being a homeless woman on the streets, Monday, Jan. 24, 2022, in Phoenix.

ple being pushed into the streets by rising rents."

Academics project their numbers will nearly triple over the next decade, challenging policy makers from Los Angeles to New York to imagine new ideas for sheltering the last of the baby boomers as they get older, sicker and less able to pay spiraling rents. Advocates say much more housing is needed, especially for extremely low-income people.

Navigating sidewalks in wheelchairs and walkers,

the aging homeless have medical ages greater than their years, with mobility, cognitive and chronic problems like diabetes. Many contracted COVID-19 or couldn't work because of pandemic restrictions.

Cardelia Corley, 65, ended up on the streets of Los Angeles County after the hours at her telemarketing job were cut.

"I'd always worked, been successful, put my kid through college," the single mother said. "And then all

of a sudden things went downhill."

Corley traveled all night aboard buses and rode commuter trains to catch a cat nap.

"And then I would go to Union Station downtown and wash up in the bathroom," said Corley. She recently moved into a small East Hollywood apartment with help from The People Concern, a Los Angeles nonprofit.

A 2019 study of aging homeless people led by the University of Pennsyl-

vania drew on 30 years of census data to project the U.S. population of people 65 and older experiencing homelessness will nearly triple from 40,000 to 106,000 by 2030, resulting in a public health crisis as their age-related medical problems multiply.

Dr. Margot Kushel, a physician who directs the Center for Vulnerable Populations at the University of California, San Francisco, said her research in Oakland on how homelessness affects health has shown nearly half of the tens of thousands of older homeless people in the U.S. are on the streets for the first time.

"We are seeing that retirement is no longer the golden dream," said Kushel. "A lot of the working poor are destined to retire onto the streets."

That's especially true of younger baby boomers, now in their late 50s to late 60s, who don't have pensions or 401(k) accounts. About half of both women and men ages 55 to 66 have no retirement savings, according to the census.

Born between 1946 and 1964, baby boomers now number over 70 million, the census shows. With the oldest boomers in their mid 70s, all will hit age 65 by 2030. □

Associated Press

Walmart, Kohl's settle over 'eco-friendly' rayon products

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO

The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Walmart and Kohl's are paying a combined \$5.5 million in settlements after the Federal Trade Commission said they falsely marketed dozens of sheets and other home textile products as made of environmentally friendly bamboo, when they were actually rayon. Kohl's agreed to pay \$2.5 million and Walmart will pay \$3 million in the settlements, which stemmed from an FTC complaint that also included allegations of deceptive environmental claims.

The companies touted the "bamboo" textiles as being made in an ecofriendly

way, the commission said Friday.

Rayon is a synthetic fiber that is made with plant cellulose, including bamboo, but the FTC noted the process "requires the use of toxic chemicals and results in hazardous pollutants."

FTC said that both retailers have marketed some of the "bamboo-derived" products as providing general environment benefits, such as being produced "free of harmful chemicals, using clean, non-toxic materials."

"False environmental claims harm both consumers and honest businesses, and companies that green-wash can expect to pay a price," said Samuel Levine,

director of the FTC's Bureau of Consumer Protection, in a statement.

Both retailers have been prohibited from making deceptive green claims or using other misleading advertising, the FTC said.

Kohl's, based in Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin, and Walmart have each marketed at least two dozen items as made of bamboo in both product titles and descriptions for several years, the FTC said. Walmart, which is based in Bentonville, Arkansas, said it takes the claims seriously.

"We hold ourselves accountable when issues like this are raised," said Randy Hargrove, a Walmart spokesman. "We have



This Jan. 28, 2015, file photo shows the Federal Trade Commission building in Washington.

Associated Press

worked to strengthen our product description programs and expect our suppliers to provide products that comply with all laws,

including those around labeling."

Kohl's also it continues to take the labeling regulations "seriously." □

CROSSWORD

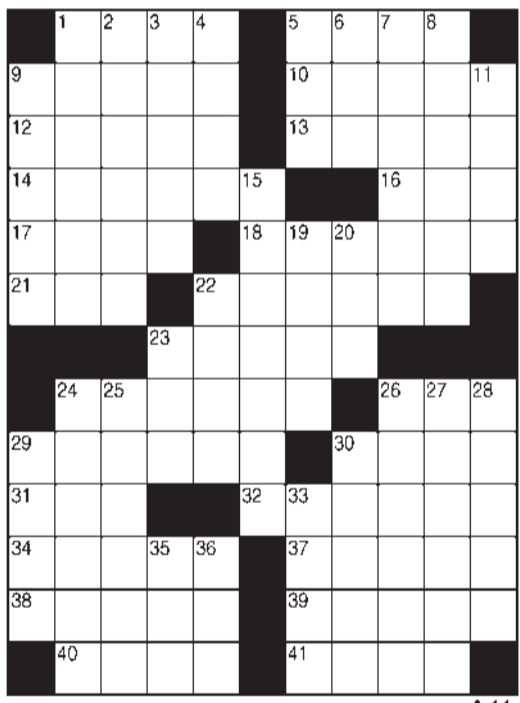
By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS** **DOWN**
- 1 Nuisance
 - 5 Jelly buys
 - 9 Juliet's love
 - 10 Con- cerning
 - 12 Love affair
 - 13 Perhaps
 - 14 Wealthy travelers
 - 16 Cart puller
 - 17 Pub brews
 - 18 Eggy dish
 - 21 Brick carrier
 - 22 Crooner Robert
 - 23 Uses the phone
 - 24 Better half
 - 26 Jazz style
 - 29 Rob
 - 30 Cause of ruin
 - 31 Count start
 - 32 China collection
 - 34 Fall flower
 - 37 Stage comment
 - 38 Fashion- ably dated
 - 39 Croons
 - 40 Beginner
 - 41 Otherwise



Saturday's answer

- 1 Citrus fruit
- 2 Hammed it up
- 3 Grinch's creator
- 4 Ripped
- 5 Jelly's kin
- 6 Lawyers' org.
- 7 "Casino —"
- 8 Group within a group
- 9 Prince of India
- 11 Exam
- 15 Handy- man's collection
- 19 Cart puller
- 20 Overhead trains
- 22 Ancient France
- 23 Machinery part
- 24 Western sight
- 25 Comely
- 26 Wash- room fixtures
- 27 Nervous
- 28 "For — sake!"
- 29 Sow's mate
- 30 Pesto herb
- 33 Simplicity
- 35 Screw up
- 36 Aussie hopper



4-11

A XYDLB A A X R
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

4-11

CRYPTOQUOTE

B W V G M Y N M K H S C B A F Z

U K H Q Z V B A H W J G M A A F Z

K J N Y F G M Y B H G K . — O G B F H W

V Z Y G M J K L F Z O Z V

Saturday's Cryptoquote: IF THE INTERNET HAS TAUGHT US ANYTHING, IT'S THAT YOU WANT LESS NEWS AND MORE CATS. — PETER SAGAL

Camila Cabello finds joy in her roots for new studio album



Camila Cabello wears a creation for the L'Oreal Spring-Summer 2022 ready-to-wear fashion show presented in Paris, on Oct. 3, 2021.

Associated Press

By SIGAL RATNER-ARIAS
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Camila Cabello says she found joy in her roots while working on "Familia," her new studio album. The pop singer and songwriter, born in Havana to a Cuban mother and a Mexican father, immersed herself in the music she listened to while growing up and even ventured to write for the first time a couple of songs fully in Spanish.

"I was curious what the process would be, because my process in English is very like me on a mic, and I just sing whatever kind of comes to my head, including lyrics. So I was like, 'I wonder what's gonna come out in Spanish,'" she said in a recent interview via Zoom from Los Angeles.

The first thing that came out was "Hasta Los Dientes" (Spanish for "to the teeth"), a pop tune featuring Argentine urban singer María Becerra about feeling jealousy for a boyfriend's past. And then "Celia," a rhythmic song which seems to reference Celia Cruz, the Queen of Salsa, in the chorus: "Ha vivido toa la vida sin azúcar / Conoció a Ce-

lia sin ir pa' Cuba" ("He has lived his whole life without sugar / He met Celia without going to Cuba"). With 12 songs in English, Spanish and Spanglish, including the singles "Don't Go Yet" and "Bam Bam" with Ed Sheeran as well as collaborations with WILLOW ("psychofreak") and Cuban singer Yotuel ("Lola"), Cabello released her third solo record under Epic Records on Friday.

"My heritage and roots are such a big part of who I am, and more and more something that makes me feel really connected and joyful and something I wanna get closer with as I get older," she said referring to her parents and grandparents when asked about the title of the album, which in English means "family." But she also mentioned her close friends and collaborators, her "family by choice," as she called them. "It's like really about community and how important relationships are for me, and I think for all of us," she said.

Musically, the pop album features classic rhythms like mariachi, mixing the

old and the new in songs like "La Buena Vida" ("The Good Life"), which Cabello sings in English accompanied by Mariachi Garibaldi de Jaime Cuellar, with a Spanish chorus sang by the singer's father, Alejandro Cabello. She debuted it last October on an NPR Tiny Desk (Home) Concert celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month, where she presented it as one of her favorites from her then-upcoming album.

"That was one of the songs I wrote with (producers) Ricky (Reed), Cheche Alara and Edgar Barrera. We were playing songs that I listened to when I was a kid: I played some Alejandro Fernández, we were listening to mariachi songs that my dad would play when I was younger. We were like, 'What can we do that is like interesting and weird?'"

They tried combining a rhythmic pop song with mariachi and were excited with the result. "Yeah, they killed it on the production," she said.

There's also "Lola" with Yotuel — which she co-wrote with Mike Sabath and Scott Harris — about a woman that wants "patria y vida" (homeland and life) as opposed to "homeland or death," Fidel Castro's motto. The line comes from the Latin Grammy-winning song of 2021 "Patria y Vida," by Yotuel, Descemer Bueno, El Funky, Gente de Zona, Yadam González, Beatriz Luengo and Maykel Osorbo.

It became an anthem of the demonstrations in Cuba that year after some of its authors dared to express their disagreement with the government for the first time.

"I was so excited when Yotuel said yes to writing on that song ('Lola') and collaborating on it with me because, to me, 'Patria y Vida' changed history and gave people a lot of bravery and hope that things could change in Cuba," Cabello said. □

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GM, Honda plan to co-develop affordable electric vehicles



This image provided by General Motors shows the GM Logo. Associated Press

By **MICHELLE CHAPMAN**
AP Business Writer

General Motors and Honda are planning to co-develop some affordable electric vehicles that will use GM's next-generation Ultium battery technology.

The vehicles, which will include a compact crossover, are expected to begin going on sale in North America in 2027.

Doug Parks, GM executive vice president of global product development, said in a statement on Tuesday that the plan is to have an electric vehicle that is priced lower than the upcoming Chevrolet Equinox EV. GM plans to roll out an

electric Equinox small SUV next year with a starting price of around \$30,000.

The automakers will work together on battery chemistry, vehicle engineering and manufacturing in order to drive down costs as they prepare to build what the companies expect will be millions of EVs for sale worldwide starting in 2027.

An EV priced below \$30,000 with a range above 300 miles per charge would be appealing to buyers globally, said Ivan Drury, a senior manager at Edmunds.com. "That is where so many consider both internal combustion engine and electric vehicles," Drury said. "Right

now, when you look at what's for sale, there's nothing transacting in that area that checks the box of EVs that go the distance."

Drury said Honda has been building vehicles in the U.S. for many years, so it shouldn't be a big adjustment to work with GM.

Honda currently needs GM's battery technology, so this deal allows it to keep working with the Detroit automaker to learn, and also to share development costs. "GM can also share some costs to help fund this expensive transition" to electric vehicles, said Morningstar analyst David Whiston.

Last year the companies announced that GM would build one Honda SUV and one Acura SUV using its Ultium-branded electric vehicle architecture and battery system. The companies said at the time that the Honda SUV would be named the Prologue, and

that both SUVs would have bodies, interiors and driving characteristics designed by Honda. The Prologue will go on sale in early 2024, with the Acura following soon.

Honda also said in June that it plans to make its own electric vehicles later this decade.

GM and Honda have successfully partnered over the years. □



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Scheffler gets Masters green jacket to go with No. 1 ranking

By **DOUG FERGUSON**

AP Golf Writer

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP) — Scottie Scheffler capped off an amazing two months with his grandest feat of all, winning the Masters on Sunday to validate his new status as the best player in golf.

The only stumble came at the end when Scheffler needed four putts from 40 feet before he could claim his first major, and that only mattered in the record book.

He closed with a 1-under 71 for a three-shot victory over Rory McIlroy, who holed out from the bunker on the final hole for a record-tying final round of 64 that gave him the briefest moment of hope that Sunday pressure at Augusta National might get to Scheffler.

No chance. Not on Sunday. Not the last four days. Not the last two months.

And to think it was just 56 days ago that Scheffler was still searching for his first PGA Tour victory. The 25-year-old from Dallas, built for stardom from when he was a 10-year-old wearing long pants to look the part of a pro, now has four wins in his last six tournaments.

No prize was greater than that green jacket.

The Sunday theater, thrilling and tragic, belonged to everyone else. Scheffler overcame a nervy moment early in the round by chipping in for birdie. He delivered key putts to keep Cameron Smith at bay and never looked rattled, even as he was swatting at short putts at the end.



Scottie Scheffler celebrates after winning the 86th Masters golf tournament on Sunday, April 10, 2022, in Augusta, Ga.

Associated Press

McIlroy was the runner-up. It was Smith who felt as though he let one get away. The Aussie was still in the game, three shots out of the lead, when he dumped his tee shot in Rae's Creek on the par-3 12th hole for triple bogey and ended his hopes.

Smith closed with a 73 and tied for third with Shane Lowry, who birdied the 18th for a 69.

Scheffler joined Ian Woosnam in 1991 as the only players to win a major — the Masters in both cases — in their debut at No. 1 in the world.

Everyone should have seen this coming. He won the Phoenix Open in a playoff on Super Bowl Sunday. He followed that with a comeback win at Bay Hill to win

the Arnold Palmer Invitational. He rose to No. 1 in the world by winning the Match Play two weeks ago in Texas.

And now this. Scheffler, who finished at 10-under 278, won \$2.7 million from the \$15 million prize fund. That brings his total to \$8,872,200 over his last six starts.

Scheffler's big moment came early in the round, and it was no less significant.

Starting the final round with a three-shot lead, he watched Smith open with two straight birdies to the cut the deficit to one, and then Scheffler's approach from the pine needles left of the third fairway came up short and rolled back down the slope.

His pitch was racing toward the hole when it banged into the pin and dropped for an unlikely birdie, and a two-shot swing when Smith from the same position made bogey.

No one got closer than three the rest of the way. Only the contenders changed.

The 12th hole remains the most riveting par 3 in golf, the scene of more collapses than comebacks. Smith became the latest victim.

Coming off birdie at No. 11, his shot was still in the air when he let his club slip through his hands and he slowly closed his eyes twice as it splashed into Rae's Creek. The next shot wasn't much better, but at least dry, and Smith's hopes ended there with a triple

bogey.

He was three behind standing on the 12th tee. Three holes later, he was eight back.

From there, any hope resided with McIlroy. All he needed to complete the career Grand Slam was to match the best final round in Masters history and get some help from Scheffler. He only got one of those and had to settle for his first silver medal from Augusta. Not that he didn't create some Sunday magic. McIlroy went bunker-to-bunker on the 18th hole, leaving himself right of the green and aiming some 25 feet right of the flag. It rode the slope all the way into the hole, setting off one of the loudest roars of the week.

Morikawa followed him in from the same bunker, different angle, and McIlroy could only laugh.

"This tournament never ceases to amaze," McIlroy said. "That's as happy as I've ever been on a golf course right there. Just having a chance — and then with Collin, we both played so well all day — and for both of us to finish like this, I was just so happy for him, too."

"I've never heard roars like on the 18th green."

The best ones were saved for Scheffler.

Scheffler still have five holes in front of him, with no evidence he was going to be anything but the smooth, smart operator who seized control on Friday in the toughest conditions to build a five-shot lead and never lost it. □

Opelka beats Isner in Houston for first clay title

HOUSTON (AP) — Reilly Opelka beat fellow American John Isner 6-3, 7-6 (7) on Sunday to win the U.S. Men's Clay Court Championship in the tallest matchup in an ATP Tour final.

The 6-foot-11 Opelka won his fourth tour title and first on clay. He improved to 5-1 against the 6-10 Isner.

The 24-year-old Opelka, seeded third has won all his titles in the United States, taking the first in 2019 in an indoor event in New York and following at Delray Beach in 2020 and Dallas this year. The 36-year-old Isner, seeded fourth, won in Houston in 2013. He has 16 ATP Tour titles. □



Reilly Opelka, of the United States, hits a backhand shot to John Isner, of the United States, in the men's singles final at the U.S. Clay Court Tennis Championships at River Oaks Country Club, Sunday, Apr 10, 2022, in Houston.

Associated Press

The play-in games are set, as NBA looks to the postseason

By **TIM REYNOLDS**

It lasted 174 days, required the usage of more players than any season in history primarily because of the ongoing challenge of playing through a pandemic, and saw playoff-positioning chases go all the way down to the final moments. Now, move over, regular season.

The NBA's postseason is finally here.

Kyrie Irving can play at home again, a change-of-heart regarding vaccination rules that was made a few weeks ago by the city of New York in a move that will have immediate impact on the race to the NBA championship. Irving and the Brooklyn Nets held off the Indiana Pacers 134-126 on Sunday, and will play host to the first play-in game of this year's tournament when they face the Cleveland Cavaliers on Tuesday night.

That matchup wasn't set until Sunday, nor was the other Eastern Conference play-in matchup: No. 9 Atlanta will play host to No. 10 Charlotte on Wednesday night. The winner of that game will play the Nets-Cavaliers loser on Friday to determine who'll face No. 1 Miami in an East first-round series.

The Nets-Cavaliers winner will be seeded No. 7 and meet either Boston or Milwaukee in the first round.

Charlotte will be without forward Gordon Hayward, announcing Sunday that he's "out indefinitely with continued discomfort in his left foot." Hayward's foot will be placed in a cast for at least two weeks, meaning if the Hornets win twice in the play-in tournament and get into the postseason, he'll likely miss most of Round 1, at minimum, as well.

OTHER MATCHUPS

By the close of business Sunday, four best-of-seven first-round series will also be determined.

Boston or Milwaukee will play No. 6 Chicago in an East first-round series, and Philadelphia or Boston will play Toronto in another East matchup.

In the West, Golden State and Dallas are vying later Sunday to see who ends up No. 3, while Utah and Denver both have chances to be No. 5.

SCORING TITLE

Joel Embiid of Philadelphia is the league's scoring champion, averaging 30.6 points. He was held out of the 76ers' finale Sunday, not that he needed it for any statistical reasons.

Embiid — who hails from Cameroon — becomes the first international player to win that title. Embiid is also the first center to win the scoring crown since Shaquille O'Neal in 1999-2000.

RACE TO 82

Only five players were in position to play on Sunday and officially appear in all 82 regular-season games



Philadelphia 76ers' Joel Embiid shoots against Indiana Pacers' Jalen Smith during the first half of an NBA basketball game Tuesday, April 5, 2022, in Indianapolis.

Associated Press

with their team this season: Phoenix's Mikal Bridges, Detroit's Saddiq Bey, Wash-

ington's Deni Avdija, Dallas' Dwight Powell and the Warriors' Kevon Looney.

Avdija played in No. 82, scoring 12 points Sunday afternoon in the Wizards' season-ending loss to Charlotte. Bridges, Bey, Powell and Looney all had games later Sunday.

It'll mark the fewest number of players in NBA history to have appeared in every game for a full regular season.

There were 11 players who appeared in all 72 games last season, which was shortened because of the pandemic. There were 14 every-game players in 2019-20, when teams played differing numbers of games, again because of the pandemic and then with not every team advancing to the restart bubble in Lake Buena Vista, Florida. □

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Water's Edge Restaurant is a jewel many had the pleasure to find!

Palm Beach – When you think of a restaurant that pleases the needs of a whole family or a large group of people with all different tastes? Think Water's Edge Restaurant. Located at the shore of Aruba's most wonderful beach, The Eagle Beach Aruba. Water's Edge Restaurant is guaranteed to serve you a fantastic magical night to remember. Whether you prefer to enjoy the view from indoors air conditioned comfort, outdoors in the soft tropical breeze or under a palapa with your toes in the sand. This spectacular restaurant offers the best ocean view sunset or sky full of stars dinner while the crispy Caribbean night wind caresses your face and plays with your hair.

From the minute you arrive there will be a great staff welcoming you with the most contagious smiles and warmth. The intense menu with a great variety of appetizers, main courses and delicious desserts will not disappoint. Seafood, Steaks and international favorites. All on one menu specially made just for you.

Culinary Voyage

Start your gastronomic journey with a scrumptious appetizer such as the Maryland Crab Cakes, maybe the Crispy Calamari or the mouthwatering

creamy Garlic Tarragon Shrimp. You can also opt for a classic French Onion Soup, a Lobster Bisque or the famously Water's Edge House Wedge, a crisp wedge of fresh romaine lettuce topped with homemade blue cheese dressing, diced tomatoes, chopped bacon, caramelized pecans and blue cheese crumbles, drizzled with balsamic reduction. This followed by the Chef's special of seafood such as Fresh salmon filet seasoned and grilled, topped with lemon cilantro butter and served with homemade mashed potatoes and fresh asparagus, a nice plate of Ahi Tuna or a succulent pasta dish like the Florentina Fettuccine Alfredo. Meat Lovers will have their fix with choices of a devourable 22oz. Bone-In "Tomahawk" Rib-Eye, pan seared in garlic infused oil and finished in the oven or our juicy N.Y Strip Loin, seasoned & grilled. All our steaks options are seasoned with a blend of kosher salt and freshly cracked black pepper. Served with homemade mashed potatoes, seasoned vegetables and a choice of red wine reduction, green peppercorn demi glace, mushroom sauce, or bacon blue cheese butter. For extra sides the options are delectable. Fresh asparagus, seasonal vegetables, mashed or baked potatoes, fries or rice and beans. Combine

your personal choice with one of the most exclusive wine from the great selection of international wines to compliment your dish. Kids will enjoy every item of the specially compiled kids menu and there are also optional dishes for all vegans, vegetarians and gluten-free guests. To end the culinary voyage with some luscious sweetness, the desserts are wild. From a piece of coconut flan, NY cheese cake, carrot cake, chocolate brownie or our classic Tiramisu with kahlua and amaretto served with chocolate sauce and coffee jelly. Not to mention the fresh and light piece of key lime pie.

Creating memories

If you are planning a birthday dinner, here you will receive a nice bottle of champagne to take home with you to extend your experience even further whether on the beach or your own private balcony.

Live entertainment

Just about every day of the week, there is a different live entertainment by the best local artists for you to enjoy. Whether you're in a romantic mood, or more in a swinging mood, there is absolutely a night especially for you where you can combine great music with delicious cocktails mixed with concoctions. In addition, Water's Edge offers three daily Happy Hours from 12pm-1pm, 4pm-6pm and again from 9pm-10pm with all premium brands specially priced.

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Whether you join us for breakfast, lunch or dinner, Water's Edge Restaurant & Bar offers a relaxed and inspirational dining experience overlooking the beautiful Eagle Beach with spectacular ocean views. Gather with friends and family for drinks and appetizers or a night of pampering and relaxation.



Thank you to all our guests

From the bottom of our hearts, we would like to Thank all of our guests who showed us so much love and support all through 2021, and hopefully will continue to do so in 2022. What we are most grateful for is that we could get back to doing what we love, which is looking after our guests. So, thank you for every dinner, lunch, breakfast, every to-go order, every glass of wine, every birthday, anniversary and date-night that you spent with us this last year. To our new guests, Welcome! We hope you to see you back soon! ☐

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For more information about the menus, entertainment and hours, please visit the website watersedge-aruba.com

